

BOOK REVIEW

MARGARET B. GARGIULLO. 2007. **A Guide to Native Plants of the New York City Region.** (ISBN 0-8135-4042-9, hbk.). Rutgers University Press, 100 Joyce Kilmer Ave # 1, Piscataway, New Jersey 08854, U.S.A. (**Orders:** www.rutgerspress.rutgers.edu, 1-800-848-6224, 1-800-272-6817 fax). \$49.95, 306 pp., 131 line drawings, 6 3/8" × 9 1/2"

Presented in this unique guide is a "detailed look at the full scope of flora that is native to this region and available for propagation." The author's definition of native species is plants that were growing in this region before Europeans came to North America. One might think that would place an artificial limit on the plants that would be useable in this day and time. But, as New York City has lost nearly 43% of its native plants, this actually would serve to increase the number of species available for reintroduction or restoration.

Her work is divided into two basic parts. Part 1 is an exploration of the plants of New York City and vicinity, focusing on trees, shrubs, vines, herbs, graminoids, and ferns. Part 2 is a catalog and description of plants for various habitat types. These are followed by a glossary and a bibliography of both print and web resources.

From the publisher: "More than one hundred line drawings of plants and their specific habitats, ranging from forests to beaches, help readers visualize the full potential for landscaping in the area. A separate entry for each plant also provides detailed information on size, flower color, blooming time, and its possible uses in wetland mitigation, erosion control, and natural area restoration. Some plants are also highlighted for their ability to thrive in areas that are typically considered inhospitable to greenery."

"Geared specifically for landscape architects, designers, land managers, and restorationists, this book offers practical advice on how to increase the amount of indigenous flora growing in the metropolitan area, and in some cases, to reintroduce plants that have completely disappeared. Easily searchable by plant type or habitat, this guide is an essential reference for everyone concerned with the region's natural plant life. Since most of the plants can also be grown well beyond the New York City metropolitan area, this book will also be useful for project managers doing restoration work in most of southern New England and the mid-Atlantic region, including Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Maryland."

Recommended for public libraries and research collections, especially those dealing with landscape design and preservation of habitat. This book is not limited geographically to the New England area but is applicable to use elsewhere, as inspiration if nothing else.

Margaret B. Gargiullo has a Ph.D. in plant ecology and has authored several articles on invasive plants and the historical flora of New York City. She worked for New York City's Department of Parks and Recreation, Natural Resources Group, until her retirement in 2006.—Gary Jennings, Librarian, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Fort Worth, Texas 76102-4025, U.S.A.